

What a Woman of Tomorrow Means to Me

By Laurelle J. Maubert

To understand what women of tomorrow are, we can draw from experiences of past and present female leaders. The Honorable Beverly Byron, Former US Congresswoman from Maryland's 6th District once said of her sudden and unexpected rise to Congress, "I did not come out of a legislative body. But that doesn't mean that because I came out of my kitchen, I can't be an effective member of Congress." While she may have made this statement nearly 40 years ago, for me, Congresswoman Byron's quote captures the essence of what a woman of tomorrow means. Women of tomorrow bring unique talents that may not fit traditional ideals; however, these talents allow them to address problems, organize, and develop strategic plans in order to effectively confront current issues in a way that honors their past experiences while also keeping the future in mind.

Shannon Watts, the founder of Moms Demand Action, is a present-day example of the leadership demonstrated by women of tomorrow. Following the Sandy Hook tragedy, Ms. Watts started a Facebook group with the hope that it might cultivate a few people to join in a fight to end gun violence. This online discussion ultimately became Moms Demand Action. Ms. Watts, "knew that a mom fighting to protect her children was way more powerful than a gun lobbyist fighting to protect gun manufacturers profits." This grassroots and common-sense approach to problem-solving perfectly demonstrates the strength and leadership potential for women of tomorrow. Of course, women of tomorrow cannot know the challenges that are ahead. However, what sets a woman apart from other leaders is that she considers the experiences of yesterday and today in order to effectively reach society's goals for tomorrow.

I, Laurelle Maubert, affirm that this essay was written by me and represents my own original work.

Signed: Laurelle J Maubert 10/29/19

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurelle Maubert". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Laurelle" and the last name "Maubert" clearly legible.